

times, and was therefore seen in both Sindh and Baluchistan. The bird was seen again one week later (October 25) by my wife and my driver, but was not present on subsequent visits. Roberts does not include it in his book, but he and others tell me that it has been seen and reported on at least one previous occasion in Pakistan, by a bird watcher from Finland, I believe, who was resident in Islamabad for some years.

Eds: The author has photographic evidence of all the sightings.

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24. ADDITIONS TO THE CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF PAKISTAN,  
 VOL. 1 NON-PASSERIFORMES, VOL. 2 PASSERIFORMES

In these volumes published by Oxford University Press, Karachi in 1991 and 1992 respectively, I attempted to set out what was currently known about the status of birds recorded within the political boundaries of modern Pakistan, including a baseline checklist totaling 663 species.

Since that time nine, if not ten, additional species have been recorded and in the majority of instances, these records have been published by the observers. As the author of the above volumes, I feel that it is desirable to gather together these scattered records and to give them wider publicity, especially as some of them could be new subcontinental records.

1. **Eurasian Dotterel** *Eudromias morinellus*

In the *Buceros* Vol. 3, No. 2, 1998, titled "Standardised English Names of the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent - A Proposal", the common dotterel is omitted, presumably because the panel of experts did not know of, or did not accept, the inclusion of this species in "An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Oriental Region", by Inskipp, Lindsey and Duckworth (1996), though the Editors of that *Buceros* issue state that they are following the taxonomic sequence of that Checklist. Since Inskipp *et al.* do not give any distributional data for inclusion of the common dotterel, our Pakistan record is important. In January 1991, a Swedish

ornithologist and long-time resident in Karachi, visited the Hab Valley along the border between Sindh and Baluchistan Provinces, in an arid mountainous region with savannah vegetation and a large dam-reservoir. He and his wife were alone, but spotted a winter plumage common dotterel, which Rolf Passburg photographed. This photograph was subsequently enlarged and widely exhibited in November 1991 during the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to Pakistan, in his capacity as President of WWF International. The new record attracted widespread interest at that time. Compared with other similar plumaged plovers, the dotterel has a distinctive broad creamy white supercilium extending around to the nape, as well as a thinner creamy white band separating the "dirty" buff upper breast and throat from the paler buff lower breast. Passburg wrote to the Oriental Bird Club (OBC) about this record, but without sending the photograph, and for some reason OBC refused to accept it. Rolf has kindly promised to send me a copy of this photo, which I shall, in due course, deposit with the Picture Library of the BNHS.

2. **Black-capped Kingfisher** *Halcyon pileata*

A single individual frequented the mangrove creeks just west of Karachi in January 1995, and this new record was published by Juha

Kylänpää in *Forktail*, Vol. 13, 1998. p. 126. In October 1998, another individual was photographed by Dr. Roger Sutton in the Hab Valley, close to the site where the dotterel was seen. Dr. Sutton kindly gave me copies of several of his photographs, and he has submitted a paper to the Oriental Bird Club on this and other sightings (In press).

### 3. Oriental Tree Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

A party of 5 ornithologists visited Pakistan for a faunal survey under the Himalayan Jungle Project, which focused on the best remaining population of the western tragopan. While dealing with officialdom in Islamabad, they recorded all the birds in that area, which is very rich in both flora and animal wildlife. In scattered forest on the banks of the Rawal Lake, they observed a party of 15 oriental tree pipits from January 29 to February 4, 1996. Their record was published in official reports to several sponsoring agencies, including BirdLife International, WWF International and the World Pheasant Association. They cited my exclusion of this pipit in Volume 2 of *Birds of Pakistan*.

### 4. Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

In February 1989, Juha Kylänpää, a Finnish Missionary, picked up the decomposed body of a thrush in his compound in Tonk, in Dera Ismail Khan, NWFP. He sent the wings to a museum in Finland, where they confirmed that it was a redwing. After much time and correspondence, Juha sent one wing to me and I was able to deposit this wing in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society.

### 5. Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Undoubtedly a new subcontinental record. Again it was Dr. Roger Sutton who discovered this individual, frequenting thorn scrub along the banks of Ghizri Creek, just on the southeastern outskirts of Karachi. I have several copies of clear photographs which he took of this bird, which

was seen in late June 1998.

### 6. Common Reed Warbler

#### *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The Finnish diplomat, Mikko Pyhälää made a number of valuable contributions to the ornithology of Islamabad region, during his posting to that capital city. During a visit to the Sindh Province in Larkana district, he observed three specimens of the reed warbler at Harnal Lake (27° 23' N; 67° 55' E) in *Phragmites* reeds, where he was able to compare it with *A. stentorius* and *A. agricola*, all three of which were seen in the same small area. He published this record of sighting the birds on January 12th 1996, in the first edition of the newly established *Pakistan Journal of Ornithology*. As published, he observed them at close range with binoculars and telescope, and noted the pale supercilium only in front of the eye in *A. scirpaceus*, the noticeably smaller size and less vociferous song of *A. scirpaceus* compared with *A. stentorius*. Blyth's reed warbler *A. dumetorum* is only reliably separable in the hand (wing formula), but in Pakistan this species always stays in low bushes and trees in dry land areas and is not found in water emergent *Phragmites*. *A. scirpaceus* being such a difficult bird to observe, and known to breed in Iran and to winter in Afghanistan, its occurrence this far to the East is not surprising. Dr. Aleem Ahmad Khan, OBC's representative for Pakistan, also told Pyhälää that he had seen this species, but unfortunately I do not have details and Miko Pyhälää is now serving in South America!

### 7. Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Rafiq Ahmad Rajpoot, at the time a junior Field Officer working for the Sindh Wildlife Board, visited the Karchat Information and Conservation Centre in the south western corner of the Kirthar National Park in Sindh. During a survey from October 24 to November 11, 1992, he recorded 120 different bird species, including

three little buntings, which were drinking from a small seepage zone, in this dry hilly area. I know Rajpoot personally and he is a keen birdwatcher, with a good knowledge of reptiles and mammals as well. All the other species recorded in his Karchat list had been previously recorded there. Rajpoot did not have a camera; his observations were not substantiated by any other companion, and have not been submitted for publication. All the known records of this uncommon wintering visitor to the Subcontinent have been in the far northern areas of the Himalayas. His report and lists of species are deposited in the Sindh Wildlife Board Library, open to the public. However, the record should be treated with caution and probably should not be included in a definitive Checklist.

#### 8. Indian Pied Hornbill

##### *Anthracoceros malabaricus*

Seen on March 13, 1999 in Mirpur, in Poonch by Major Erkki Kallio. This was in the area presently on the Pakistan held side of the Cease-fire line.

#### 9. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

Seen on August 21, 1999 by Major Erkki Kallio at Kotli in Poonch, presently on the Pakistan held side of the Cease-fire line.

Both these records i.e. the Indian pied hornbill and long-tailed broadbill, are of interest in that they must be the westernmost record for these species from the Himlayas.

#### 10. European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Seen on February 13, 2000 in Islamabad

at the foot of the Margalla Hills. A second European robin seen by Juha Kylänpää in Kao forest below Dunga Gali, Hazara district on December 28, 2000. Major Erkki Kallio, a keen and reputed birdwatcher in his own country, was working with UNMOGIP as a Military Observer, and based in Islamabad at the time, and Juha Kylänpää is a missionary based in the NWFP, who has already published two articles of his bird sightings in Pakistan, in the Journal of the Oriental Bird Club, *Forktail* and he was the individual who picked up a wing of the redwing *Turdus illiacus* deposited by me in the BNHS Collection, as mentioned above. I was so surprised at the robin sightings that Major Kallio kindly sent me a slide that he took of the bird, and there is no mistaking his identification. I understand from him that it has also been recorded in India for the first time in 1999 at Rajouri, also in Poonch, and this information was passed on by Erkki to the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Sudhir Vyas in Islamabad, who also writes in the *JBNHS*.

I think it is important to record unusual distributional records where they represent extensions of known range. Sadly, so often there is shrinking of range of so many species, and in the case of the European robin it is not normally considered a long distance migrant.

February 23, 2000

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## 25. SOME INTERESTING BIRD RECORDS FROM THE DELHI AREA

A four-year posting at Delhi from mid-1995 to mid-1999 provided me with an opportunity to review the bird life in the area, and compare it with notes made during earlier periods of stay in 1977-79 and 1984-86 (Vyas 1995). In ten years, the city of Delhi has grown

phenomenally, particularly to the east and south, and some of the most fruitful birding localities no longer exist. The formerly bird-rich marshes near the Coronation Pillar and Model Town in north Delhi have been drained and built upon. Large areas of reed beds about 5 km south of